

KOREIN TILLERY
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GEORGE A. ZELCS
LICENSED IN ILLINOIS ONLY
gzels@koreintillery.com

205 NORTH MICHIGAN PLAZA
SUITE 1950
CHICAGO, IL 60601
TELEPHONE: (312) 641-9750
FAX: (312) 641-9751

November 14, 2007

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I am a resident of Barrington, Illinois. My home, where my family and I have lived for twenty four years, abuts the E J & E railroad tracks that run through Barrington.

Barrington is unique in that the E J & E and Union Pacific tracks effectively bisect the town. The Union Pacific, which includes both freight and Metra commuter traffic to and from Chicago, bisects the town into north and south sectors. The E J & E further bisects the town into northwest and southeast sectors. The Barrington police and fire departments are located in the southeast sector. Barrington's sole emergency medical facility, Good Shepherd Hospital, is located in the northwest sector. When trains are running through town on the E J & E tracks, Barrington police and fire vehicles are blocked from traveling to calls in half of the town. Likewise, medical emergency vehicles from Good Shepherd are blocked from access to half of the town when train run on the E J & E tracks.

I recently heard that Canadian National Railway Company has proposed a project that would bring at least fifteen more trains per day down those tracks. A CN press release and investors conference call transcript further indicates the CN also plans to use these tracks as a beltway for transferring trains from the other U.S railroad mainlines that intersect with the E J & E tracks thus potentially adding an even larger amount of trains per day.

505 NORTH 7th STREET
SUITE 3600
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63101-1820
TELEPHONE: (314) 241-4844
FAX: (314) 241-3525

10 EXECUTIVE WOODS COURT
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS 62226-2030
TELEPHONE: (618) 277-1180
FAX: (618) 277-9804

This announcement alarmed me greatly. I became even more concerned when I heard that this estimate did not account for large increases expected in train traffic throughout the Chicago area over the next 20 years. The drastic increase in safety (arising from the bisection of Barrington by these tracks) traffic (all of the main roads in Barrington are crossed by the E J & E and Union Pacific tracks) and noise problems will affect my quality of life and the quality of the environment in my community.

The current traffic on the E J & E tracks results in extremely high decibel horn usage through the night and early morning hours. The vibration caused by the trains can be felt hundreds of feet away and is enough to shake existing structures. The CN proposal would result in at least 4-5 times as much traffic.

I have been informed that you are responsible for reviewing the Canadian National Railway Company's proposal. I believe that the effects I discussed above warrant serious consideration before you allow Canadian National to move forward. You hold the safety and well-being of not only my family, but that of an entire region in your hands. I trust that you and the rest of the Board will thoroughly review Canadian National's proposal for any and all effects on the environment and affected communities.

Please do not approve this proposal until you are certain that the safety, traffic, noise and environmental issues are appropriately dealt with. Finally, thank you for your service to our country.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Zelcs", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal flourish.

George A. Zelcs

GAZ/gaz